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New Orleans District

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Corps Seeks Industry Input on Innovative Design and Construction Techniques for Westbank Project

Industry Day slated for August 6

NEW ORLEANS, La. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is hosting an Industry Day to discuss the project concept and innovative means to design and construct a surge barrier that will reduce risk to communities along the Harvey and Algiers canals. Members of the engineering, design, construction, and project management industries are encouraged to attend the Aug. 6 event at the New Orleans Marriott Metairie at Lakeway hotel, 3838 N. Causeway Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Industry Day will promote open dialogue between the Corps and industry leaders on the Corps' acquisition strategy, innovative design and construction techniques for the Harvey and Algiers canals protection project.

"The Harvey and Algiers canals surge protection barrier project is one of the most substantial portions of the hurricane system and will reduce risk to thousands of people living on the Westbank," said Julie Vignes, senior project manager of the Westbank and Vicinity portion of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. "We are looking forward to incorporating innovative techniques into this project design and construction."

Preliminary estimates show design and construction of the project will cost over \$500 million.

All those interested in attending the forum are asked to register for this event at <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/ebs/GIWW>.

The project team is currently considering three project acquisition strategies:

- Design-Build
- Design-Bid-Build
- Early Contractor Involvement.

The project team is considering four alternatives to reduce risk and increase public safety. Two of those alternatives include a navigable floodgate and pump station on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway with two different levee alignments near the Bayou Aux Carpes 404(c) site. A third alternative is a navigable floodgate with pump station located on the Algiers Canal, and the fourth alternative would provide parallel protection along both banks of the Harvey and Algiers canals. The parallel protection plan is not a true viable alternative as it would significantly impact many residential and business properties along the Algiers Canal. The final recommended plan will be identified in Nov. 2008 and will include a large navigable floodgate and a pump station in the 20,000 – 30,000 cubic feet per second range depending on the final alternative selected.

The selected alternative will bring the Corps closer to completing a system that will reduce risks associated with a storm event that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. The four alternatives to provide 100-year protection for the Harvey and Algiers canals are outlined in Individual Environmental Report 12 which is available on www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

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